

2006

WISCONSIN

Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Spearing Regulations & Information

Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management
and Habitat Protection



Winnebago Sturgeon History Project

*To capture and preserve the history of
this great fishery and the people who
made it so*

See inside how you can be a
part of this project

***Sturgeon Hotline
920-303-5444***

***For information on the sturgeon
spearing season, the Winnebago
Sturgeon History Project, or on the
Sturgeon Guard Program***

Dear Winnebago Sturgeon Spearer,

The 2005 sturgeon spearing season has been in the books for a year now and most of us are still surprised at the outcome. The season lasted 12 days (12 on Lake Winnebago and 1 day on the Upriver Lakes) and produced a total harvest of 1238 sturgeon - 255 juvenile females, 423 adult females, and 560 males. Opening day shanty counts of 2604 on Winnebago and 2055 on the Upriver Lakes were very similar to counts in 2000, the last season with spearing in both areas (2736 and 2079 respectively). Since the "half day" spearing format went into effect in 2002, three out of four seasons have been relatively long and one very short - 10, 16, 2 and 12 days in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

So - what did the 2005 season, along with the last 5 or so seasons tell us with regards to future management actions needed to sustain this great fishery? At a series of public meetings following the 2005 season we (public and DNR working together) decided that the most important things we need to do at this time to sustain the fishery were to initiate a lottery fishery on the Upriver Lakes and to make some changes in the overall harvest cap triggers. These changes will help ensure we don't overharvest, while at the same time maximize spearing opportunities. Working with our Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee and DNR Fisheries Bureau staff we were able to develop and attain approval from the Natural Resources Board and the state legislature for the necessary rule changes. The new rules are described in more detail in the regulation pamphlet.

*The present and the future continue to look bright for our sturgeon fishery and for the tradition of spearing. One way to effectively appreciate what you have now is to look at where you have come from. To that end, in 2006 we are initiating the **Winnebago Sturgeon History Project**. This is a joint effort by DNR, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Great Lakes WATER Institute, the University of*

Wisconsin SeaGrant Institute, and the Oshkosh Public Museum to capture and preserve stories, photos, and artifacts that chronicle the history of our sturgeon fishery and management program. These stories and photos will be summarized in a high quality publication for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Please watch for project promotions and opportunities to tell your stories, and share your photos and artifacts, and to be a part of this historic endeavor. Check the project out at our special website www.winnebago.sturgeon.org. Also see the next page of this pamphlet for more details on how you can become involved.

I hope you have a great spearing season!

Ron Bruch

Winnebago Sturgeon Biologist



***R.Reitag
Lake Winnebago
February 1960***

Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Spearing Regulations and Information

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*Luella Hemauer of Chilton
48", 29 lb sturgeon
Speared Opening Day
February 9, 1963*

Winnebago Sturgeon History Project



Most of the recorded historical information about the lake sturgeon fishery of the Winnebago Pool Lakes and the upper Fox and Wolf Rivers in east central Wisconsin is comprised of data and reports from biological investigations and records of decisions on various regulations and laws that have been implemented to control the harvest over the decades. The historical records chronicling the people's side of the story are scattered

among archived newspaper stories, shoe boxes of old photos in private collections and in the minds of 1st through 4th generation sturgeon spearers, anglers, and other users.

The human history associated with sturgeon harvest and use on the Winnebago System needs to be researched, compiled and recorded for prosperity before more of the most valuable records, those in the memories of sturgeon spearers and others, are lost.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Great Lakes WATER Institute, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, and the Oshkosh Public Museum have teamed up in an effort to preserve this history for present and future generations.

The Winnebago Lake Sturgeon History Project is gathering information, photos and other documentation on sturgeon spearing and other human sturgeon experiences on the Winnebago-Fox-Wolf System from private and

public collections and memories. The history project team will be organizing and synthesizing this information to produce a book on the History of Lake Sturgeon Fishery on the Lake Winnebago System.

We need your help! It is only through help from sturgeon spearers, fishermen, watchers, and enthusiasts that this project can be done. We need your stories, your father's and grandfather's stories, copies of old photos and fishing records, photos or donations of old decoys, spears, sturgeon set lines or other sturgeon fishing equipment. These are the "golden nuggets" that will tell the full story of sturgeon on the Winnebago Lakes, the Wolf and the upper Fox Rivers.



So – please help make the story complete – get involved in this project!

You can get involved by contacting:

Lisa Sharkey, Fisheries Program Assistant, Wisconsin DNR, Oshkosh via e-mail at winnebago_sturgeon@dnr.state.wi.us or by calling 920-303-5444.

LAKE WINNEBAGO STURGEON SPEARING REGULATIONS

Please take a few minutes to carefully read through this regulation pamphlet.

NEW RULES FOR 2006

1. **“Fast Start” Season 100% Closure Trigger.** Beginning in 2006, the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season will be closed at the end of the spearing day in which 100% of any one of the three harvest caps (juvenile females, adult females, males) is reached or exceeded that day. *[This rule was an emergency provision in place in 2005.]*
2. **“Slow Finish” Season 90% Closure Trigger.** Beginning in 2006, the general season 24 hour closure trigger will be set at 90% (an increase from the previous trigger of 80%).

NEW RULES FOR 2007

1. **Upriver Lakes Lottery.** An annual lottery sturgeon spear fishery will be held on the Upriver Lakes beginning in 2007. Spearers will need to apply for an Upriver Lakes sturgeon lottery tag by August 1 and will be notified by October 1 if they were successful in receiving authorization to purchase an Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing tag. Group lottery applications of up to four persons will be accepted. Sales for both Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing licenses end October 31. The Upriver Lakes sturgeon lottery fishery will limit participation to 500 tags in 2007 (numbers of tags in future seasons may vary) and will have a small sub-allocation of the overall sturgeon harvest cap.

2006 OPEN SEASON – Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Spearing

February 11, 2006 through February 26, 2006 on Lake Winnebago **or until the pre-set harvest cap is reached** (as per trigger closure rules).

Total harvest of sturgeon will be limited through pre-set harvest caps. Harvest caps for the 2006 Winnebago System spearing season are 500 for adult

females, 500 for juvenile females and 2000 for males. The Department will close the sturgeon spearing season when the first of one of the two following conditions occurs:

- *At the end of the fishing day in which 100% of any one of the three harvest caps is reached or exceeded, or*
- *24 hours from the end of the fishing day within which a harvest of 90% to 99% of any one of the three harvest caps is reached.*

BAG LIMIT: One lake sturgeon per licensee

MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT: 36 inches

LICENSE REQUIREMENT

To spear sturgeon, residents must purchase a sturgeon spearing license and tag for \$20.00 and nonresidents must purchase a sturgeon spearing license and tag for \$65.00

Only persons 14 years of age and older are eligible to spear sturgeon.

No sturgeon spearing license may be issued or purchased after October 31, 2005 except for Wisconsin residents that turn 14 between November 1, 2005 and the last day of the 2006 spearing season, and for Wisconsin residents serving in the Armed Forces home on leave during the 2006 spearing season.

The sturgeon spearing license and tag must be carried by the licensee at all times while fishing for sturgeon with a spear.

A sturgeon spearing license and tag is nontransferable. No person may possess the tag or license of another.

No person may possess a validated sturgeon carcass tag unless attached to a legal sturgeon.

SPEARING HOURS

6:30 AM to 12:30 PM

No artificial lights of any kind can be utilized while spearing.

Any sturgeon speared must be registered the same day it was speared by 1:30 PM.

TAGGING REQUIREMENT

A spearer with an unused and valid sturgeon license and tag who spears a lake sturgeon must **immediately** validate and attach their carcass tag to the sturgeon (just forward of the tail).

It is illegal for any person to possess any sturgeon or part thereof without the carcass tag validated and attached.

Group bagging is illegal and occurs whenever the person who tags the sturgeon is different from the person who speared the sturgeon.

TRANSPORTATION

It is unlawful for any person to transport any unregistered sturgeon in or on any motor driven vehicle unless the sturgeon is carried openly exposed and placed so the carcass tag cannot be handled by anyone. *"Openly exposed" means open to view by a person in a passing vehicle.*

To transport a legally harvested and tagged sturgeon the fish must be accompanied by the spearer until registered

It is illegal to possess an unregistered sturgeon speared from Lake Winnebago outside the highway boundary area delineated as follows: *From the intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha, east on highway 114 to highway 55; south on highway 55 to U.S. highway 151; south on U.S. highway 151 to Scott street in Fond du Lac; west on Scott street to highway 45; north on highway 45 to Main street in Oshkosh; north on Main street to Waugoo avenue; east on Waugoo avenue to Bowen street; north on Bowen street to North Shore drive; north on North Shore drive to county highway A; north on county highway A to highway 114 in Neenah; east on highway 114 to the intersection of highways 10 and 114 in Menasha.*

REGISTRATION

A person who spears a sturgeon must accompany and exhibit the tagged sturgeon at an official sturgeon registration station (see map page 7) no later than 1:30 p.m. on the day speared. *To avoid the "end of the day" rush please bring your fish in as soon as possible after spearing it.*

Department Fisheries staff at the registration stations will collect biological information on the size, sex and age of your fish, and will attach a metal sturgeon registration tag.

The sturgeon carcass and registration tag must be retained until the carcass is consumed.

ICE HOLE RESTRICTIONS

No person may cut, use, or maintain an ice hole larger than 12 inches in diameter or square for the taking of fish in any manner through the ice except spearing sturgeon on the Winnebago Pool Lakes during the open season. The total area of a sturgeon spearing hole or combination of holes in an individual spearing shelter may not exceed a total of 48 square feet.

Ice holes larger than 12 inches cut, used, or maintained may not be covered by a shelter, shanty, or similar device, except during the period from 48 hours before and continuing through the open season for sturgeon spearing season.

POSSESSION AND USE OF A SPEAR

No person may have under his or her control any spear or similar device in any enclosure on the ice or waters of the Winnebago Pool Lakes except when authorized during established sturgeon spearing seasons.

No person may take, capture, kill or attempt to kill sturgeon on the Winnebago Pool Lakes by any means other than spearing with a spear thrown by hand from inside a fishing shelter placed on the ice during the open spearing season.

SPEARING OF ROUGH FISH

Spearing of rough fish from the Winnebago Pool Lakes is prohibited during the sturgeon spearing season.

ICE HOLE MARKING

Sturgeon spearing ice holes must be marked with at least 2 strips of wood that extend at least 3 feet above the ice. The wood strips must not exceed 1.5 inches in width and .25 in thickness (wood lathe meet requirement).

When you first set your shanty, cut a hole and freeze the lathe into the ice for better marking of sturgeon holes. Lathe markers stuck in snow banks are not adequate because of snow melt during warm weather conditions.

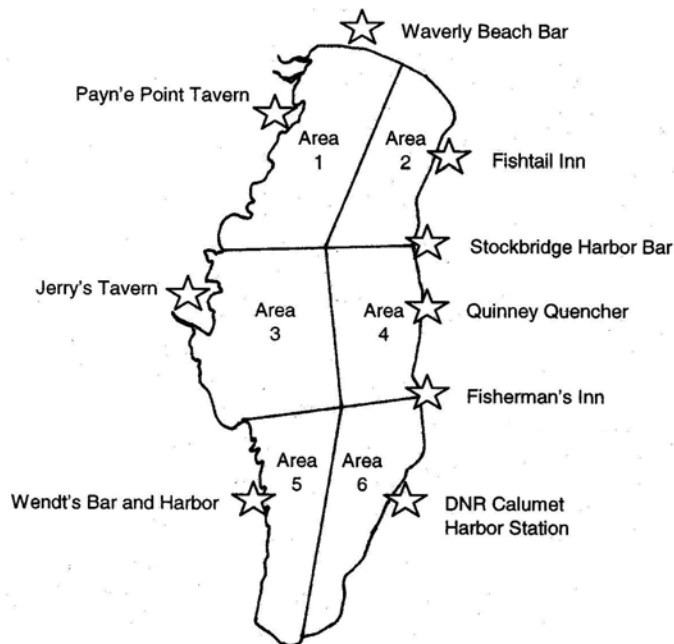
STURGEON REGISTRATION STATIONS

Operated daily throughout the season by DNR Fisheries staff *(Some stations may be closed before the end of the season depending upon spearing activity and volume of sturgeon registrations. Any necessary early closures will be posted at registration stations)*

Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Registration Stations:

Station No.	Station Location
1	at Waverly Beach Resort <i>Junction of U.S. Hwys 10 & 114</i>
4	at Fishtale Inn <i>Calumet County Park Road</i>
5	at Harbor Bar <i>Stockbridge on the lake</i>
6	at the Quinney Quencher <i>Quinney on the lake</i>
7	at Fisherman's Inn <i>Brothertown</i>
8	at the DNR Calumet Harbor Station <i>Pipe on the lake</i>
10	at Wendt's Bar & Harbor <i>Hwy 45, 8 mi. N of Fond du Lac</i>
11	at Jerry's Tavern <i>1210 Ceape St., Oshkosh</i>
12	at Payne's Point Tavern <i>Cty Trk A 3 mi. S of Neenah</i>

Note – Some station numbers are missing, (i.e.: 2, 3 & 9) due to changes in the number and location of stations over the years.



LITTER

It is illegal to place or deposit any materials (including biodegradable) on the lake bed. Any material used in a sturgeon spearing hole must be removed by the sturgeon spearer when the hole is abandoned, or if requested by a warden.

Any material that is left on or frozen in the ice or waters is the responsibility of the person who left the material (including tar paper, wood, cardboard used adjacent to shanties).

FISHING EQUIPMENT OR GEAR

It is unlawful to possess a fishing pole, hook and line, angling equipment or other similar devices that could be used to catch fish in an ice fishing tent, shanty, or other ice fishing enclosure with ice holes larger than 12 inches in diameter or square.

ICE SHANTIES AND SHELTERS

The door of any occupied shanty/shelter shall be such that the door can be readily opened from the outside.

All shanties/shelters must have the name and residential address of the person owning or using the shanty. The name and address must be painted or permanently affixed on the outside with a minimum of 1" lettering.

All shanties/shelters must be removed from the ice on or before March 5 south of Highway 64.



WI Conservation Wardens with illegal sturgeon catch, 1935

Lake Sturgeon of the Winnebago System

The Winnebago System likely holds the largest natural sustaining lake sturgeon population in the world, and is used as an egg source for lake sturgeon re-introduction and rehabilitation projects throughout the fish's original North American range. Lake sturgeon are slow growing, long lived and late maturing fish. Both males and females will attain legal size in the spear fishery (36 inches) in 7 to 10 years. Males and females generally grow at similar rates up to about 40", after which females grow faster. Females typically live longer and therefore attain much larger sizes, making up most of the population of fish over 60 inches. Females have the potential to live 80+ years while few males have been found in excess of the age of 40. Males do not mature until they are age 12-15 (40"-43", 12-20 lbs) and females age 20-24 (50"-59", 40-60 lbs).

Summary of 2005 Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Spear Harvest Season

The 2005 sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes was much different than almost anyone connected with the fishery, spearers and Department staff alike, thought it would be. The season lasted 12 days (12 on Lake Winnebago and 1 day on the Upriver Lakes) and produced a total harvest of 1238 sturgeon - 255 juvenile females, 423 adult females, and 560 males. Opening day shanty counts of 2604 on Winnebago and 2055 on the Upriver Lakes were very similar to counts in 2000, the last season with spearing in both areas (2736 and 2079 respectively). Since the "half day" spearing format went into effect in 2002, three out of four seasons have been relatively long and one very short - 10, 16, 2 and 12 days in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Prior to the beginning of the 2005 season, it was widely anticipated that it would be very short, perhaps two or three days at most, due to the expected impact of the Upriver Lakes fishery (as an open fishery with no limitation on tags), good ice conditions, good water clarity, and the expectation that Lake Winnebago would again produce a high harvest in the south end of the lake (similar to the 2004 season when 89% of the harvest was taken from the southern 14% of the lake).

Warm weather, rain and runoff one week prior to the beginning of the spearing season on February 12, 2005 produced cloudy water in both the Upriver Lakes and Lake Winnebago that did not show up in most areas until

spearers went into their shanties on opening morning. As a result, the Upriver Lakes harvest, which by rule was limited to one day for the 2005 season, produced only 344 fish on opening day compared to 2155 fish during the last season (of two days) held there in 2000. On Lake Winnebago, spearers, in addition to some cloudy water, also were finding the fish to be highly scattered throughout the lake with no large concentration on the south end as was seen in 2004. The fish were scattered due to the relatively poor hatch of gizzard shad in 2004, which by their absence, eliminated the high concentration of fish in the south end of the lake.

Coupled with this was the fact that the Upriver Lakes harvest drew 4,169 tags off of Lake Winnebago as spearers were not allowed to fish both lake areas in 2005 - they were allowed to purchase either an Upriver Lakes tag or a Lake Winnebago tag, not both. Therefore, the relatively low harvest on the Upriver Lakes, significantly fewer tags on Lake Winnebago, the fact that few spearers had planned on the season lasting longer than opening weekend (and did not schedule vacation past that weekend), and the impact of the low abundance of gizzard shad on the distribution of sturgeon in Lake Winnebago, all combined to produce a modest daily harvest rate and a long 12 day season.

2005 sturgeon spearing season statistics:

Table 1. 2005 sturgeon spear harvest by sex and lake area, Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes.

	Juvenile Female	Adult Female	Male	Lake Total
Area 1	17	36	45	98
Area 2	24	55	53	132
Area 3	7	19	17	43
Area 4	60	150	128	338
Area 5	27	45	76	148
Area 6	22	62	50	134
L. Winnebago	158 (17.7%)	368 (41.2%)	367 (41.1%)	893
Butte des Morts	3	2	2	7
Winneconne	30	23	63	116
Poygan	64	30	128	222
Upriver Lakes	97 (28.1%)	55 (15.9%)	193 (55.9%)	345
Totals	255	423	560	1238

Table 2. 2005 sturgeon spear harvest by sex and registration station, Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes.

		Juvenile Female	Adult Female	Male	Totals
Waverly		15	41	50	106
Fishtail		7	15	18	40
Stockbridge		42	99	70	211
Quinney		18	37	32	87
Brothertown		4	13	21	38
Cal Har / Jim & Linda's		31	83	67	181
Taycheedah		2	4	9	15
Wendts		29	51	79	159
Jerry's		5	9	7	21
Payne's Point		5	16	15	36
URL - Winneconne		33	25	64	122
URL - Nofke's		28	9	42	79
URL - Captain's Cove		2	1	4	7
URL - Tustin		11	10	43	64
URL - Boom Bay		23	10	39	72
	Totals	255	423	560	1238

Table 3. Shanty counts, 2005 Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes Sturgeon Spearing Season

	Sat 12 Feb	Tues 15 Feb	Thurs 17 Feb	Sat 19 Feb
Area 1	279	240	269	295
Area 2	253	179	301	262
Area 3	174	132	138	166
Area 4	243	175	325	499
Area 5	545	562	441	520
Area 6	1110	185	233	541
Lk Winnebago Total	2604	1473	1707	2283
Lake BDM	91			
Lk Winneconne	374			
Lk Poygan	1590			
Upriver Lakes Total	2055			

Table 4. Average total length and weight of registered sturgeon, 2005 spear harvest, Lake Winnebago and Upriver Lakes.

2005 Sturgeon Harvest Upriver Lakes					
			No.	Ave. Len. (in)	Ave. Wgt. (lbs)
Juvenile Female (<55")			97	44.6	18.0
Adult Females (55"+)			55	61.1	55.2
Males			193	49.2	27.0
2005 Sturgeon Harvest Lake Winnebago					
			No.	Ave. Len. (in)	Ave. Wgt. (lbs)
Juvenile Female (<55")			158	48.9	22.4
Adult Females (55"+)			368	61.8	47.7
Males			367	53.3	29.2

Table 5. Percentage of sturgeon harvest by lake area, Lake Winnebago, 1996-2005 (see lake map page 7)

Lake Winnebago Sturgeon Harvest - % of Harvest by Lake Area, 1996-2005						
Year	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6
1996	17.75%	13.45%	7.44%	21.93%	15.27%	24.15%
1997	15.04%	22.09%	10.70%	27.60%	6.43%	18.14%
1998	9.71%	32.89%	4.44%	20.11%	20.99%	11.86%
1999	10.11%	21.43%	3.03%	31.47%	6.81%	27.16%
2000	3.77%	15.07%	5.22%	17.68%	31.59%	26.67%
2001	7.61%	15.09%	3.58%	17.61%	48.99%	7.11%
2002	20.31%	43.09%	8.38%	22.55%	2.95%	2.72%
2003	13.19%	5.65%	5.99%	2.33%	41.57%	31.26%
2004	3.45%	2.10%	3.24%	1.78%	57.34%	32.09%
2005	10.97%	14.78%	4.82%	37.85%	16.57%	15.01%

“What about those skinny fish in the 2005 harvest?”

While fish harvested in 2005 represented a wide range of condition as they normally do every season, we did notice more skinnier fish than usual. Figure 1 shows the average relative condition (relationship between weight and length) of M1 and F1 sturgeon in the Lake Winnebago harvest from 1991 to 2005, and it can be seen that indeed, the fish were thinner than normal in 2005 and thinner on the average than we have seen since 1991 when we began sexing and staging harvested fish. An average fish would have a relative condition value of 1.0. Skinnier fish would score less than 1.0 and heavier fish would score more than 1.0.

Poor hatches of lakeflies in 2003 and 2004, coupled with a drop in shad densities and a collapse of the zebra mussel population in 2004 resulted in 2004 being a very poor foraging year for sturgeon in the Winnebago System, so it is not surprising that the average relative condition of the sturgeon harvested in the February 2005 spearing season was down. Figure 1 also shows that not only does relative condition vary substantially from one year to the next, but also that gizzard shad do not appear to have a lasting impact on the condition of sturgeon. Gizzard shad were very abundant in Lake Winnebago in the early 1990's and the early 2000's, as shown in Figure 1 by our catch per unit effort data from our annual trawling assessment. Sturgeon relative condition does not correlate well with shad abundance. It is likely that shad, while providing good forage during their winter die-off period for two or at most three months, do not contribute much to the sturgeon diet the other 9-10 months of the year. It is during these 9-10 months that the sturgeon apparently rely on other food items, most likely lakefly larvae and possibly zebra mussels, among other things. Therefore, when lakeflies and zebra mussels are down in the same year, the sturgeon relative condition goes down, regardless of whether shad are abundant or not. Shad have probably had their biggest impact on sturgeon by drawing large numbers of fish into the south end of Lake Winnebago in certain years which contributes to fast seasons like we had in 2004.

The good news for the 2006 season is that we saw a significant

resurgence of lake flies in Lake Winnebago in the summer of 2005 in the intensity and duration of adults hatching, and in our sampling of larvae (red worms) throughout the entire lake. We also had a relatively large hatch of gizzard shad in 2005 which will make a contribution to the sturgeon food supply and may impact the behavior of sturgeon during the 2006 spearing season.

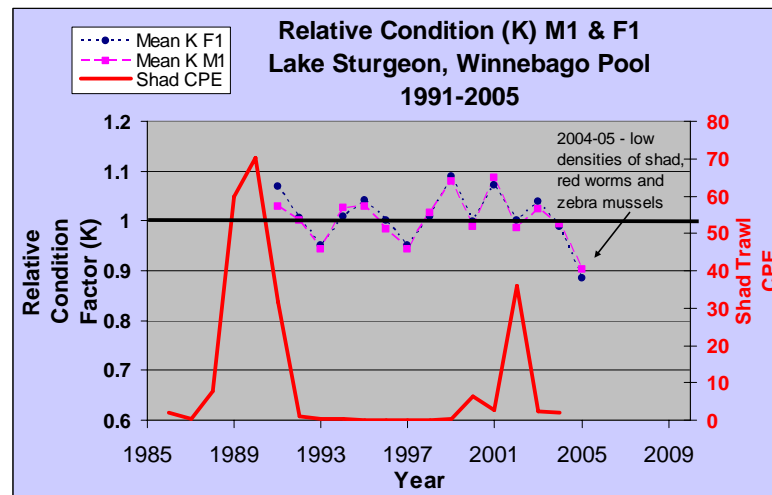


Figure 1. Average relative condition of M1 and F1 sturgeon in the Lake Winnebago harvest from 1991-2005, and average catch per effort of gizzard shad in summer and fall assessment trawling transects on Lake Winnebago from 1986 to 2004.

M1 = adult male in between spawning cycles
F1 = adult female in the first stages of development following spawning (or a juvenile female in early development entering her 1st spawning cycle)

**Largest sturgeon speared from Lake Winnebago,
1941-2005** (NOTE: Does not include fish speared from the Upriver Lakes)

Year	Weight (lbs)	Length (inches)	Spearer	City
1941	135			
1942	88			
1943	81			
1944	(no record)			
1945	111			
1946	142			
1947	102			
1948	151	77		
1949	128			
1950	70			
1951	115	72		
1952	100	72		
1953	180	79	Elroy Schroeder	Appleton
1954	156	79		
1955	160	74	Harry Lopas	Menasha
1956	142.5	74	Joe Wilz	Menasha
1957	168	85	William Mortimer	Chilton
1958	120	73		
1959	109	72	Gilbert Bertram	Campbellsport
1960	108	72	Edward Jewson	Fond du Lac
1961	105	70	Delmar Mengel	St. Cloud
1962	109	72	Paul Petrie	Kimberly
1963	116	72	Robert Wagner	Fremont
1964	115	71	Mike Pitzen	New Holstein
1965	143	78	Edward Butzlaff	Oshkosh
1966	132	73	George Christoph	Neenah
1967	120	76	LeRoy Patt	Van Dyne
1968	84	66	Alex Fisher	Reedsville
1969	92	69	Norbert Baumhart	Eden
1970	120	75	William Klavetter	Neenah
1971	106	70	William Neabling	Neenah
1972	128	72	Paul Wagner	Stockbridge
1973	80	68	Fred Curtin	Shawano
1974	98	69	David Stinske	Neenah
1975	156	78	Norb Schroven	Stockbridge
1976	125	75	Wilmer Schulz	Menasha
1977	130	76	Vic Steaven	Chilton
1978	120	77	Arno Lau	Hilbert

1979	109	74	Charles Wilz	Menasha
1980	126	74	Gwen Bowe	Mt. Calvary
1981	106	68	Paul Wagner	Hilbert
1982	158	78	Peter Gartzke	Menasha
1983	102	72	Bob Brieir	Combined Locks
1984	102	73	Dennis Seelow	Neenah
1985	116	78	Wendy Nuchardt	Hilbert
1986	159	75	Darlene Holman	Neenah
1987	115	70	Rory Pues	Neenah
1988	115	77	Edwina Freund	St. Peter
1989	111	76	David Jurgensmier	Fond du Lac
1990	144	73	LeRoy Remme	Neenah
1991	117	74	Juneau Graf	Van Dyne
1992	88	72	Larry Margelofsky	Mayville
1993	127	77	Tom Disterhaft	Neshkoro
1994	104	73	Jerry Kaiser	Mt Calvary
1995	126	76	Gary Zahringer	Hilbert
1996	107	69.5	Susan Muellenbach	New Holstein
1997	118	74	Paul Bednarek	Oshkosh
1998	114	74	Michael Henry	Fond du Lac
1999	119	71	Lawrence Ziegelbauer	Chilton
2000	117	72.5	Chad Banks	Lake Tomahawk
2001	146	81	Terrance Schrage	Fond du Lac
2002	120	73	Bruce Sheely	Fond du Lac
2003	139	76.5	Michael Blanck	Malone
2004	188	79.5	Dave Piechowski	Redgranite
2005	126.5	72.5	Matthew Gehl	Hilbert



1953, 180 lbs by Elroy Schroeder
(Old Winnebago Spearing Record)

2004, 188 lbs by Dave Piechowski
(New Winnebago Spearing Record)



Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee

Spearers are actively involved in management of the Winnebago System sturgeon population and fishery through the Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee.

Members of the Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>		
Brickyard Fishermen's Club	Jim Propson <i>Hilbert, WI</i> Bruce Fischer <i>Hilbert, WI</i>	Payne's Point Hook & Spear Club, Inc.	John Jurgenson <i>Neenah, WI</i>
Brothertown Fishing Club	Don Lisowe <i>Chilton, WI</i>	Poygan Sportsmens Club	Dan Rudebeck <i>Larsen, WI</i> Scott Henning <i>Larsen, WI</i>
C.A.R.E	Dan Groeschel <i>Fond du Lac, WI</i>	Quinney Fishing Club	Richard Scheffler <i>Chilton, WI</i> Butch Schneider <i>Chilton, WI</i>
East Shore Conservation Club	Andy Seibel <i>Mt. Calvary, WI</i>	Riverside Hunting & Fishing Club	Jeff Birschbach <i>Mt. Calvary, WI</i>
Fisherman's Road Fishing Club	Dick Mengel <i>Fond du Lac, WI</i>	Shadows on the Wolf	Bill Marcks <i>Appleton, WI</i>
Lake Park Fishing Club	Bob Doepker <i>Appleton, WI</i>	Stockbridge Fishing Club	Jerry Ortlieb <i>Stockbridge, WI</i> Bob Parsons <i>Stockbridge, WI</i>
Lower Cliff Fishing Club	Don Mielke <i>Menasha, WI</i>	Sturgeon for Tomorrow Main Chapter	Bill Casper <i>Fond du Lac, WI</i> Dave Vogds <i>Fond du Lac, WI</i>
Montgomery Beach Sportsmans Club	Harry Kachur <i>Menasha, WI</i>	Sturgeon for Tomorrow Northern Half Chapter	Wayne Hoelzel <i>Menasha, WI</i>
Mt. Calvary	Willard Jenkins <i>Malone, WI</i>	Sturgeon for Tomorrow Southwest Chapter	Gary Ninneman <i>N Fond du Lac, WI</i>
Otter Street Fishing Club	Bill McAloon <i>Oshkosh, WI</i>	Sturgeon for Tomorrow West Central Chapter	Dick and Pat Braasch <i>Oshkosh, WI</i>
		Twin City Rod & Gun Club	Dick Koerner <i>Neenah, WI</i>
		Upper Lakes Fishing Club	Bob Pechman <i>Oshkosh, WI</i>

West Shore Fishing Club

Stuart Muche
Van Dyne, WI
Ron Goldapske
Van Dyne, WI

WinnebagoLand
Conservation Alliance

Sherman Jacobson
Van Dyne, WI
Mike Arrowood
Oakfield, WI

Sturgeon Guard Volunteers Needed In Spring

Each Spring hundreds of volunteers have an opportunity to guard sturgeon at their spawning sites on the Wolf River and protect the fish from poaching. When the sturgeon are spawning along the rocky shorelines of the Wolf they are fairly oblivious to nearby human activity and are very susceptible to illegal harvest. The volunteers of the "Sturgeon Patrol" guard the spawning fish 24 hours a day throughout the spawning season which is typically in late April and early May. The program is directed by DNR Law Enforcement staff and funded, in part, by Sturgeon for Tomorrow, a local sturgeon conservation organization.

When spawning begins, pairs of sturgeon guards are assigned to the sites for twelve hour shifts. Prior to assignment, guards check in at "Sturgeon Camp", just north of Shiocton, where they are fed a good meal, given a generous sack lunch and an identification hat (that they keep), and directed to their site. At the end of their shift, guards return to camp for another hearty home cooked meal before they make their way home.

While it is impossible to predict the exact dates that spawning will occur each year, guards are routinely scheduled from April 15th through May 5th. Spawning generally occurs over a five to seven day period within that time window. While we do our best to get all scheduled guards out on the riverbank to see fish, invariably we must cancel some scheduled shifts if the fish are simply not active. We try in those cases to re-schedule guards into an active period.

If you would like to sign up, send a detailed message to the DNR sturgeon guard coordinator at the DNR Oshkosh Service Center at sturgeon@dnr.state.wi.us or call 920-303-5444. Your call will be returned to schedule a day or night next spring that is convenient for you. If possible, make it a family outing by bringing a son or daughter or your spouse. For many it has become a family tradition.

Sturgeon for Tomorrow

In 1977 a group of sturgeon enthusiasts from Lake Winnebago founded Sturgeon for Tomorrow to help preserve, protect and enhance the sturgeon resource of the lake system. That group quickly grew into the largest citizen advocacy group for sturgeon in the world, currently made up of four chapters and over 3,000 members. Through tremendous dedication and hard work Sturgeon for Tomorrow (SFT) has raised and donated to date over \$600,000 for sturgeon research and management since its inception. SFT has funded a wide variety of projects over the years including the sturgeon guard program, spawning and nursery site construction, sturgeon population assessments, sturgeon propagation and the Upper Fox River sturgeon rehabilitation project. SFT also provided the support necessary to ensure the enactment of the \$1,500 fine for possession of an illegal sturgeon, and actively participates in Winnebago and statewide sturgeon management advisory committees. **If you are interested in further information about Sturgeon for Tomorrow or are interested in attending one of their four fund raising banquets held each winter, please call:**



David Vogds	SFT Main Chapter President (East Shore) Banquet January 28, 2006 in Kiel	920-921-3701
Jim Patt	SFT Southwest Chapter President (Fond du Lac) Banquet January 14, 2006 in Fond du Lac	920-922-7136
Dick Braasch	SFT West Central Chapter President (Oshkosh-West Shore) Banquet March 18, 2006 in Oshkosh	920-231-4708
Wayne Hoelzel	SFT Northern Half Chapter President (North Shore) Banquet February 4, 2006 in Darboy	920-725-1206

Call to get your Sturgeon for Tomorrow banquet tickets!